

Message Text

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TO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078860

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA: UPDATE

REF: A) USUN 980; B) USUN 1018; C) USUN 1002

1. THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA WHICH
BEGAN ON MARCH 21 IS TEMPORARILY IN RECESS. AFTER TWO
WEEKS OF DEBATE AND CONSIDERABLE NEGOTIATION THE
COUNCIL HAS PUT OFF DEBATE UNTIL PROBABLY THE MIDDLE
OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 11. THE COUNCIL IS CURRENTLY
DISCUSSING QUESTION OF BENIN'S COMPLAINT OVER THE
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JANUARY 16, 1977 MERCENARY ATTACK ON COTONOU.

2. THE AFRICAN GROUP INTRODUCED FOUR DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN
THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH STRONGLY CONDEMN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND CALL FOR A SERIES OF MEASURES
LEADING UP TO AND INCLUDING SANCTIONS UNDER CHAPTER VII
OF UN CHARTER. THE FOCUS OF PRIVATE SC NEGOTIATIONS

HAS BEEN A WESTERN INITIATED "DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA." THE DOCUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING A BROAD CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD ACT ON THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND

RHODESIA. CONSIDERABLE NEGOTIATION HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN BROAD AGREEMENT ON MOST OF A TWENTY-TWO PARAGRAPH STATEMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT IS REPEATING TO ALL AF POSTS COPIES OF CURRENT WESTERN AND AFRICAN DRAFTS OF DECLARATION (REFS A AND B). MAJOR REMAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WESTERN AND AFRICAN NON-ALIGNED GROUPS CONCERN QUESTIONS OF:

-- ECONOMIC AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA (PARA 16);

-- DESIGNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA AS MINORITY GOVERNMENT (PARA 15); AND

-- REFERENCE TO ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS "RECOGNIZED BY OAU" (PARA 14).

AFRICAN GROUP HAS REJECTED WESTERN LANGUAGE ON THESE AND SEVERAL OTHER POINTS, BUT HAS REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE DECLARATION AS A WHOLE. NEGOTIATION BETWEEN WEST AND AFRICAN/NON-ALIGNED HAS LARGELY BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFERRED PENDING RETURN NEXT WEEK OF KEY AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED AMBASSADORS FROM THE NEW DELHI MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING GROUP.

4. WESTERN GOVERNMENTS HAVE IN MEANTIME DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD ON JOINT DEMARCHE TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA (DISCUSSED IN SEPTTEL). UN DELEGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING POSSIBLE MEANS OF FOLLOWING UP DEMARCHE TO SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH FORMATION OF WESTERN "CONTACT GROUP" TO DISCUSS WITH SOUTH AFRICA THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 385 ON NAMIBIA.

5. TO RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRIES FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS ON STATUS OR CONTENT OF DRAFT DECLARATIONS, POSTS MAY USE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, IN ADDITION TO DRAWING UPON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PRESENTATION TO AFRICAN GROUP ON APRIL 1 (REF C):

-- THE US AND ITS FELLOW WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE

SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO RESPOND
CONSTRUCTIVELY TO AFRICAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE
CURRENT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

-- WE HAVE TRIED TO OBTAIN A BROADLY BASED CONSENSUS
DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WHICH WILL
SERVE AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE SC CONSIDERATION
OF NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

-- WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS WE HAVE
MADE IN WORKING OUT A DRAFT AND BY THE CONTINUING
WILLINGNESS OF THE AFRICAN GROUP TO NEGOTIATE ON AN
ACCEPTABLE DRAFT.

-- NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY DEFERRED WHILE
THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING GROUP MEETING TAKES
PLACE IN NEW DELHI, AND WHILE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
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IS TAKING UP THE QUESTION OF BENIN'S COMPLAINT.

-- WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS
NEXT WEEK AND HOPE FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A BROADLY-
SUPPORTED DOCUMENT WHICH WILL GUIDE THE COUNCIL IN
ADDRESSING THE PRESSING PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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